CONSIDERATIONS

On the PREVAILING

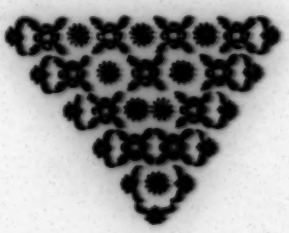
SPIRIT and TEMPER

OF THE

PRESENT TIMES.

In a LETTER to the

SCOTS NATION.



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IT is the fashionable topic of the age we live in, that every man has the privilege to say and write without controul what he pleases. As an Englishman I put in my claim for a share of this general immunity; and shall use it without expecting any eminence of that applause, or making it necessary to my happiness, which only men of warmer attachment to some Party, than I profess to any, can expect to acquire. If the reason be demanded of me for this apparent Indifference, I take leave to deny the supposition; and would explain my meaning in few words, by a trite but true saying, that "I never heard of such a thing "as an honest Party, though I have known "honest and worthy Men in all."

My ſituation in life has no farther connexion with the Political Debates of this divided age than the principles of humanity muſt create, to ſee ſo many of ones fellow ſubjects, from living quietly in a ſtate of mutual concord under the protection of the common father of our country, now every where indulging to acrimony and invective againſt the Whole Collective Body of one part of our iſland, with a ſpirit not to be equall'd by the fervor of our loyalty in any time of common danger within my remembrance.

It is the frequent profeſſion of political writers that they have no Intereſt to ſerve by the ſucceſs of their ſpeculations. I profeſs not, indeed, to be ſo intirely free from influence: If abſolute Diſintereſtedneſs be neceſſary to obtain a hearing, I muſt be contented to be thrown by with that neglect which many a well meaning man before me has patiently ſuffered, for the preſumption of thinking to do good, without talents or inclination

inclination to amuſe the ingenuity of the public.

I profeſs not to write ballads for the meridian of theſe whimſical times, to draw caricaturas, to coin toaſts, nor to keep up the ſhuttle-cock of political debates, while crowds gape round me admiring the adroitneſs of my play. My temper I own is very unfit for ſuch amuſements: I have been made as unhappy by a catalogue of Toaſts as ſome men would have felt themſelves over a liſt of Bankruptcies; Caricaturas, which excite the laughter of others, have coſt me many an heavy ſigh; a Chorous has given me as much pain as a Riot; and Political controverſies, enjoyed by the combatants, have made me retire from the throng of their popular admirers, as I would ſhun a crowd in the ſtreet, which I ſuſpected to be got together by pick-pockets, to make ſpoil of thoſe whom good nature or impertinence may draw within their lure.

A man of this ſtrange caſt has no chance to pleaſe; though poſſibly he may ſo far excite the curioſity of ſome people as to lead them to aſk, what can he be? Is he a Methodiſt? No---an Exciſeman? No---a Penſioner of Greenwich, or Chelſea, or the Treaſury? No--- What then? why, one whoſe heart bleeds over the conſuſions of paſt times, and trembles at every degree of approach towards the like cauſes which gave them birth; who wiſhes to do all the good he can, and thinks the beſt end of living is to promote order and harmony, peace, liberty, and the rights of mankind in their moſt comprehenſive and beneficial extent: If this be giving himſelf a Good Character it is no more than he has made his ſtudy to deſerve, and harbours no opinion ſo injurious, as to think That an attainment for only one in a city and two in a tribe to pretend to.

'Tis not unuſual, for men who know they mean well, to covet ſome more elevated ſtation

tion in life than their own to diſplay that benevolence of intention. It may be no certain evidence of an indolent temper, nor perhaps a fact hard of belief, that I wiſh not ſuch advancement to be my lot; and for this reaſon; becauſe my humbler genius whiſpers me, a man in the private ſphere of a peace-maker may do more to merit the good will of mankind, than power without equal ſagacity could accompliſh him to deſerve: and even ſuppoſing no abatement of the influence of thoſe principles which firſt led him to wiſh for rank and eminence, it is poſſible to fail ſo much in the execution, as to become himſelf the object of equal allowance with thoſe, whoſe faults he would fain, as far as may be, correct the ill influence of.

I have been tutor'd by abundance of hint-mongers and ſpeculators, that any degree of benevolence, connexion or attachment to the Scots-nation, is now a certain argument of a ſordid mind: by this a moſt unlucky compliment is put into my power, which it would really give me pain to apply to myſelf.

ſelf. If the definition of ſordidneſs be the reverſe to heroiſm and greatneſs of ſoul, there is one ſhort rule of determining its preciſe and particular meaning. Heroiſm is the ſpirit of an hero---look then and obſerve what the heroes of our age and country are, the moſt applauded characters among us, I mean, as defenders of liberty by their political writings; ſettle the import of ſordidneſs by contrariety to their temper and character, and it will include decency, moderation, an equal concern for the conſtitution in all it's parts, no thirſt for power and influence, but a quick and lively reliſh for the bleſſings of public, ſocial, and domeſtic tranquillity. In this view I am contented to paſs for a ſordid man, and wave my pretenſions to our modern faſhionable greatneſs of ſoul.

Though I am not a native North of Tweed, I think myſelf obliged to behave like a good brother of that family in all it's parts, which the union has made one with us.

us. That I am deſcended from the more opulent line of it is no reaſon for exalting myſelf above a junior of ſcanty fortunes, though perhaps of no more amiable conditions than my own; however, as a ſon of the head-branch of the family I may be excuſed for aſſuming ſome degree of ſuperiority; the only prerogative I aſſert at this time ſhall be the part of an "adviſer", which will be no great matter of arrogance neither, when I ſpeak to myſelf as freely, and with the ſame obedience of my own will to the Truth, as I wiſh to obtain from thoſe whom I now proceed to addreſs.

My Dear Brethren of SCOTLAND,

PERMIT me, with a friendly earneſtneſs, to ſollicit your candid attention, to the ſentiments of one who is conſcious of no prejudices to bias his judgment, no intereſt to blind it. In proteſting thus much of myſelf, I ſpeak no other language than every man ſhould be able to adopt.

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It is out of my ſphere, and foreign from my inclination, to enter into the merits of thoſe men and meaſures, that have brought the Northern provinces of theſe kingdoms ſo much within the eye of public animadverſion.

In times of abounding prejudice, it is vain to reaſon againſt the paſſions and intereſt of the majority: Forbearance is the wiſer part, how hard ſoever to practice; but there is one conſideration, my Brethren, which may go a great way towards reconciling us to this difficult compliance, the full perſuaſion, I mean, that we have no other part to chooſe.

When the faction of ſome, the madneſs of others, and the dependant ſtate of barbarity and indigence of more of your nation, threatened the ſubverſion of our conſtitution, nineteen years ſince, no ſentiments that language can utter exceeded the abhorrence I then ſuffered in my mind, at that unnatural violence

violence offered to ſo mild and gracious a government.

When Providence, arming the hand of a brave commander to repeal the diſgrace of our firſt unſucceſsful oppoſition, had chaſtiſed the ingratitude of that daring attempt, my next joy of heart was inſpired, by thoſe noble acts of wiſe and benevolent policy, the "Opening roads of communication with the remoteſt parts of the Highlands," and the "Diſſolution of the Clanſhips."

The Former I can never allow myſelf to confine to ſo unneighbourly an idea, as that of carrying a ſcourge againſt inſurgents, but would rather indulge myſelf in regarding, as a new channel opened between both people for the mutual intercourſe of benefits.

The Latter emancipated thouſands from vaſſalage, who, in the judgment of candor, were more to be pitied than abhorred, for

 their

their part in a crime, which (whatever their inclinations might be) they were almoſt inevitably compelled to by the deſpotic power and example of their Lords: or even admitting their inclination to need no force, but to be ſo ready in the cauſe as almoſt to outrun their leaders; yet for this too Mitigations may be pleaded, which we admit with the leſs reluctance, as the force of thoſe motives is daily abating, by a ſpirit of improvement inſinuating itſelf into parts of the country where, till of late, the very arts of Humanity were ſcarcely known.

I ſhall not ſurely be charged with coining excuſes to varniſh over "Rebellion" as an harmleſs thing---to you, my Brethren! the very ſuppoſition would be contemptible, and an inſult; and our opponents, if any ſuſpect this to be my deſign, will have no cauſe to think ſo before we diſmiſs the ſubject. The ſword muſt do its office againſt ſuch leagues of iniquity, the ſword of the ſoldier, as well as that of the magiſtrate; your country paid the

the forfeit to both; and has no cauſe to complain of ſeverity in the puniſhment, when impartially weighed againſt the offence.

But it is time that we call off our attention to a brighter reverſe; and from the review of Scotland as a ſcene of Rebellion, to behold her in her preſent ſtate, the Mother of gallant ſubjects and faithful Britons, who, in every quarter of the Globe, have nobly done their parts to extend the honours of our united country.

In the courſe of our late Victories, was there any Rivalry between North Britons and South, but who ſhould moſt glorify the annals of the times? How much of the luſtre of the late adminiſtration was derived from your ſhare in thoſe noble atchievements, let Envy declare. Not a whiſper was there then, at home or abroad, of diſtinction between Engliſh and Scots-men; the valour of both was heard with applauſes on either ſide of the Tweed; and the arms of our Country

were open to embrace all her children alike. And ſurely, my Friends! it muſt warm your hearts, for mine feels tranſports, to conſider, that the Diſhonour of Fathers has been repeal'd by their Children, that of Brothers by Brethren; nay, that the Perſonal ſhare of many of you in Rebellion againſt your Sovereign has been cancelled, by ſubſequent acts of the moſt gallant Fidelity in his ſervice. This is a triumph which even the once Guilty of your countrymen may enjoy: but what muſt be the ſentiments of thoſe Worthy hearts among you, exceeding ten for one the Diſaffected of your nation, who beheld the madneſs of their countrymen with becoming ſentiments of averſion, who abhorred the crime while they pitied their guilt, and who live to ſee that diſgrace wiped off from their country, which the beſt of men could leaſt endure that it ſhould ſuffer from the enormities of the worſt?

But my deſign in this addreſs is more candid than to deal in Commendations only. No nation was ever yet made up of individuals

ſo

ſo perfect as to have no prevailing error or foible, which a ſeverer ſpectator may call a Vice.

As ſurely as any caſt or complexion is national, ſo certainly is a People denominable by their good or ill qualities: Thoſe, diſtinguiſhing of Britons South of Tweed, are too obvious to need being mentioned. Our *good qualities* I need not ſurely explain to our Brethren of North Britain; they are more candid diſcerners of merit than to need to be informed. What the prevailing *Foibles* of Engliſhmen are it beſt becomes me to confeſs, as were our Brethren of Scotland to object them to us, they might be ſuppoſed to ſpeak from prejudice and reſentment. And perhaps, were the prevailing qualities of both people to be impartially compared, we might diſcern much of a brotherly likeneſs, both in thoſe that are moſt amiable, and thoſe that are leaſt ſo.

We plume ourſelves on our impatience of controul, which (as moſt men are ingenious at

at giving themſelves a good name) we call Love of Liberty, and I hope it really is ſo.

Hoſpitality and compaſſion are virtues, which God has bleſſed us with hearts and abilities to diſplay to the greateſt advantage. Public-ſpirit is an excellence we never fail to commend in thoſe who exert it, and few of our country are without ſome ſparks of that in their nature, which education and ſolidity of temper might improve to purpoſes of diſtinguiſhed uſefulneſs.

The love of one's own likeneſs is common to a Proverb: and where Rivalſhip does not blind our diſcernment, we rarely fail to find out and ſhew our good will to whatever bears the image of ourſelves; whilſt emulation, and the jealouſy ſpringing from it, makes us think that deformity in a rival, which all the world beſide, if they examined us with a critical eye, might ſee traces of in our own features and complexion.

It is needleſs to particularize, and muſt be left to every man's private opinion, in what reſpects

reſpects this obſervation holds good, and where the application fails. In ſome reſpects it will be juſtified; and the benefits be found to repay the pains of our attention to diſcover thoſe inſtances.

You, my Brethren of Scotland! are now popularly decried for the ſtrictneſs of your national attachment; and I ſhould be more partial, than a man ought to be to the errors of his friend, were I to attempt the vindication of this in the degree we have ſeen it predominate in ſome characters. Let the regulation of it be referred to your own candour and diſcretion. I am no profeſſed reformer, but ſhould think the office not foreign from my ſphere, to inſinuate to any man the remedying an error, or what has ſo much the appearance at leaſt of being amiſs, as to hinder that coaleſcence of harmony and good-underſtanding wherein the life of ſociety conſiſts: And in this attempt it may poſſibly happen that I do a real ſervice to myſelf and the objectors, by detecting too near a Similitude between our own actions and

temper,

temper, and what we pronounce faulty and cenſurable in others; or on the other hand, that, by tracing up the Errors of thoſe men to their ſcource, we diſcover them to ſpring originally out of ſome Good qualities which may well become us to cultivate and cheriſh in ourſelves. Reciprocal Errors ſhould be mutually acknowleged and reformed; and where the Offence is mutual, Forgiveneſs ſhould ever be ſo too. The origin of that Prejudice we diſcommend in you, I apprehend to be ſimply no other than firm and ſtrenuous Attachment; a principle the moſt natural to influence a people which had made ſlower advances in civil Improvements than many of it's neighbours; a nation, which, though part of our iſland, was not, till the Union, one with us; the unavoidable foundation This of mutual jealouſy; That, the ſcource of ſtrenuous confederacy, which would always operate moſt powerfully in the weakeſt party, and give umbrage to the ſtrongeſt. But, though the cauſes for this ſeparation by ſelf incloſure are no more, why do we ſee ſuch remains

mains of the Practice as nothing but hereditary prejudices can account for, if even thoſe, difficult as they are to ſurmount, can be admitted to plead it's excuſe. But, we had almoſt fallen unaware, from the proper idea of Scotland as our Siſter nation, to ſpeak of her in the Adverſe light ſhe ſtood before that relation was formed. This, however, is neceſſary, to account for the exiſtence of a national ſpirit, which it may be your wiſdom to moderate, and our's to remove every thing on our part that may have a tendency to reanimate and inflame it.

It has been the remark of an ingenious writer, that our Contempt of the Scots for their prevailing national attachment, proceedes, in great meaſure, from the too feeble influence of the like principle on ourſelves. I know it is unfaſhionable to quote that writer as authority, who, with talents to be admired, and a ſpirit worthy of his country's grateful applauſes, has brought himſelf under the cenſure of the age, for letting us into the ſecret of ſome foibles in our national cha-

racter, which we were aſhamed to find, or to own there. I do not profeſs to agree with him in all Concluſions, though his general Principles are, in their foundation, ſolid enough to build ſuch improvements upon as may make us the happieſt of people. To Account for the predominance of a national attachment among the Scots, may better become me than to attempt the Juſtification of it. 'Tis a temper more natural to a nation in the infancy of it's Improvements, and the minority of it's Strength, than to ſuch a ſtate of things as the Union has ſettled, by making the Scots nation one with our own in power and intereſt. A Union which ſhould forbid either people to conſider themſelves in a ſeparate light, and to treat the other as diſtinct, by a limitation of confidence to their own more particular connexions and fraternity.

The next popular imputation againſt your country is Pride. The origin of which, ſo far as it may juſtly be imputable, ſhould be ſought for in the nature of your political government, till the Union introduced a change ſo beneficial both to your nation and our own.

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It is a melancholy picture we ſee exhibited in the annals of Scotland, torn and diſtracted as that country was, for ſo many ages, by inteſtine tumults and revolutions, by it's vicinity to England, with whom ſhe never could agree, by dependance on foreign auxiliaries to ſupport her in that miſerable ſtate of enmity. We in England muſt be indifferently read in hiſtory, to forget the diſtracted condition of this part of our iſland when ſeveral kings divided it; and it will need but little attention, to draw arguments of forbearance for the more newly recovered condition of your country from a ſtate of the like anarchy and confuſion. The love of power is ſo natural to man, that we may well be aſhamed to ſee how loath we are to part with it for more than an equivalent. The reluctance of too many of your countrymen to the Union, from the influence of this prepoſſeſſion, may be excuſed by the allowances due to human infirmity, but is never to be juſtified on principles of worthy and benevolent policy. Though, ſo far as prejudice is the parent of this evil, as the root decays by time, the

branches and the fruit will certainly wither away: It were a noble employment for you, my Brethren! to lop off theſe with your own hands, not to prune them for future increaſe.

But much of that which we South of Tweed are ready to count Pride in the Scots nation, may poſſibly be reſolvable into ſome other cauſe, which well becomes ourſelves to be admoniſhed and improved by. When the gentry of Scotland come among us, and find ſo few of equal ſtation in England accompliſhed in ſcience and education, as might be expected from our opulence and advantages, it muſt be an high degree of ſelf government indeed that can diſſemble the impreſſions of ſo unlucky a diſcovery. The Engliſh nation in general has not the character of ſuſtaining, with the ſtricteſt decorum, any real or imagined ſuperiority among foreigners; and we muſt not be too haſty to take offence, if a people we now treat as foreigners ſhould betray ſomething a-kin to that among ourſelves. But as the General Body of a Nation fixes

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the national Character, and perſons of inferior claſs muſt be always the majority; in this view it may be eaſy to account for the prevalence of this objection among us to the Scots: the lower ranks of their people are more diſtinguiſhed above our's for goodneſs of education, and ſolidity of behaviour, than the inferior claſs of the Engliſh are to be preferred, for labour, application, and diligence: and much of the noiſy prejudices againſt Scotland and Scots-men would have been ſilent but for this diſtinction. Scots and Engliſh in equal ſtation, the ſucceſs and advancement of the former, in families and public buſineſs, we never fail to hear imputed to Intrigue; it is your part, my Brethren! to remove the odium of this imputation, in thoſe inſtances where the truth of it cannot be refuted; but ſure we judge moſt favourably of ourſelves, when No conſideration is admitted how fair a title to notice and confidence education and ſolidity may plead--- qualifications that fit a man for offices ſuperior to rude and uncultivated nature.----Tell the Commonalty, that no man is certainly

More

More honeſt for being illiterate, nor Leſs honeſt for being ingenious; and however unwilling the lower uneducated claſs of our Engliſh people may be to acknowledge this as truth, it will nevertheleſs be their intereſt to believe and improve by it.

The laſt imputation againſt your country I ſhall take notice of, is the practice of Illicit-Trading; but here I am confounded to ſee an object ſtrike me which admits of no apology or mitigation!---I bluſh, my Brethren! not with the conſciouſneſs of an accomplice, but with the grief of a friendly heart, to think, that education, ſolidity, and a prevailing appearance of Religion, have not controul enough to prevent or reform a practice, ſo fatal to integrity and the life of goodneſs. But it is not this that ſharpens the keeneſt tongues of our nation againſt you: We learn too eaſy forbearance for thoſe crimes which do not immediately appear to affect our private intereſts; though what is there, which (in a light of juſt conſideration) can be charged with that conſequence in an equal degree with

with Illicit-Trading? This is the parent of perjury, the ſcource of numberleſs moral and political evils, and ſtarves that honeſt induſtry which is not to be bribed by it's gains, nor to be galled by it's oppreſſions, to become partaker in the crime. As we wiſh to ſee Peace between Brethren reſtored, and to enjoy the Bleſſing of Heaven to ſtrengthen that bond of concord, let us both be perſuaded to abhor and renounce this practice; and we, on our parts, will ſtipulate and agree, that it ſhall be as infamous and criminal in *Suſſex*, as at *Leith*.

I have rudely ſketched this picture, not to expoſe, or to palliate the errors of either nation; but to attempt a candid explanation of the cauſes of that ſtrangeneſs which turbulent ſpirits among ourſelves are ſtill ſo induſtrious to inflame; in hopes, if poſſible, to mitigate and allay a temper, ſo injurious to the laws of hoſpitality, and the natural rights of ſubjects of the ſame government.

I profeſs not the leaſt inclination to meddle with any eminent or popular characters in the political

political feuds of our preſent time: Theſe have been ſufficiently magnified, or mangled, on either ſide, whilſt the public ſeems nought the better for all. What I ſee, and lament as moſt contrary to my wiſhes, I wait for diſpaſſionate men and temperate meaſures to redreſs; if we may flater ourſelves with the hope of coming ſo far to our ſenſes, when "Moderation" is a word hooted out of all companies, and the pretence to it ſhall hardly fail to mark a man either for a knave or a fool. A ſpirit of national rancour is all that my advice and endeavours are interpoſed to allay; but neither are all among us inflamed with general prejudices againſt the Scots, any more than that whole nation is impeachable for the Rebellion of ſome of it's fraternity; though our political writers take pains to ſophiſticate us out of the diſtinction. Aſk of Scotland, and ſhe will tell us, the Rebels were children ſhe has renounced: Let us in return be believed, when we ſay, that the worthieſt characters among ourſelves are leaſt infected with the prevailing outrage of general imputation againſt the Scots. I, for my own particular,

ticular, can never be influenced to decry that country and her children, which has bleſſed the world with a *Leighton*, a *Burnet*, and a *Scougal*, in Religion; which gave to theſe nations a *Stair*, and an *Argyle*, for ſtateſmen and military commanders; and which has had ſome of the brighteſt characters to boaſt, in every age, for courage and warlike atchievement; Qualities, which our enemies in Germany and America will do juſtice to, by the ſcars they have to ſhew from their bravery---Qualifications which, I truſt, for ages to come, we ſhall love and commend, with the warmeſt ſentiments of brotherly affection.

Do not then, my Fellow Britons! ſuffer your loyalty to be diſheartened to our common parent and protector! Inhoſpitable as your treatment has been, from ſome of your neighbours on this ſide the Tweed, who, when the ineſtimable bleſſing of Liberty is the theme of their joy and gratulation, ſhall have too much cauſe to remember with ſhame, that you have been wounded in the houſe of it's friend.

Every Period of time, in this airy nation, has had it's Cant-word of applauſe or averſion. 'Tis now your fate to be the butt of an inſolence which means much leſs miſchief than it does. Bear with our prejudices, and they will grow aſhamed of themſelves! Leave but the diviſion of our place and emoluments to thoſe who claim that prerogative without a rival or controul, and they will ſoon be ready to confeſs, that every other jealouſy of you was vain and without foundation. It muſt be painful to a good natured man to conſider, that a Scottiſh Invaſion (as we call it) of power and places, has kindled a ſpirit of more anxious alarm, than the ſtrides of the laſt Rebellion could awaken in us, to diſcern our country's danger, and unite in manly efforts for her deliverance. May laſting honor be the Reward of thoſe of our Country, who, when Scots-men came againſt her in Rebellion, oppoſed them with undaunted reſolution; who foſtered no factions at home to nouriſh the ſeeds of that diſcontent which rendered Rebellion formidable; and who now will be ſo much the friends of each nation,

nation, as to endeavour to renew a better ſpirit in Both!

It is a conſideration, my Brethren, which reflects no honour on the temper of the preſent times, that one of our moſt applauded works of wit has drawn more ridicule againſt your nation from the aggravated topics of Poverty and Misfortune, than any writer of this period, whoſe ſpeculations have come within my knowledge, has extracted arguments of reſpect from your good qualities, or of friendly admonition to correct what, in the temper and conduct of your nation, may be leſs amiable and praiſe-worthy.

It requires great ſelf-command, indeed, to betray no impatience, when attacked on one ſide by the loweſt aſſaults of ſcurrility, on the other by the keeneſt arrows of wit; and when prejudice, elated by the triumphs of theſe, ſtands full in our way to over-rule all arguments of ſelf-vindication. In this ſituation no choice remains, but that we retire for a-while within the privacy of ſelf-ſatisfaction, a refuge ſo obſcure, that no envy will purſue or moleſt us there. Leave

to prejudice the honours of the field, and the ſpoils of victory, and wait for the prevalence of a better ſpirit, to ſpring up, like the bleſſings of harveſt, where hoſtile fury once acted the bloodyeſt tragedies of havock and ſlaughter. Such changes in the face of nature muſt have been familiar to our obſervation in many parts of the world, and the like revolutions are incident to the changing tempers of mankind.

Under the keeneſt laſhes of Satyr it will ever be a mitigation of our ſmart, if ſhe chaſtiſes us with the rod of our misfortunes, rather than with the ſcourge of our vices. If, with the former only, it is juſt to conclude, that we are more beholden to our innocence than to her moderation, who ſeldom lets off the offender with the lighter puniſhment when ſhe has her choice of one more ſevere. It is not my province to enter the liſts with men moſt diſtinguiſhed for the gaiety of their wit; but, if I remember right, it was once a maxim of old, that "Poverty and Affliction are ſacred." We have hoſpitals for moſt other caſualties and ſuffer-

ings,

ings, yet I know of no aſylum but Patience for Misfortune wounded by Contempt.

Wait, my Dear Brethren! but 'till our Prejudices ſubſide---we ſhall then embrace you with more ardour of affection than ever you have been repulſed from us with diſdain; for our attachments and averſions are ſtrangely mutable and various: There are places, beſide *Edinburgh*, that looked kindly enough on the advancing army of Rebells in 1745, where now, " obedience to a King of the Hanover Succeſſion," and the " glorious Revolution," are favourite topics---And may their new-adopted principles ſit ſo graceful upon the wearers, as that they ſhall never more be tempted to throw them off!

But you have an intereſt, my Brethren! in another Principle beſide our natural affection; a Principle that ſtrongly binds moſt men, our " Neceſſities," I mean: for the feuds of our preſent times ſeem to be ripening events to a criſis, when the United ſervices of all good Britons will be required againſt the Common Enemy.

It may not be ſtrictly within my province, to addreſs you from other topics than the preſent inherent honours and rewards of a true affection to your country's peace, though to adorn that character in it's full extent eſſentially comprehends many duties which carry our views beyond the emoluments of civil life; and when either private, ſocial, or political virtue have certain contradiction attending their obedience, and the ſucceſs of our perſeverance is at beſt remote, it muſt be hard to fortify ourſelves to endure ſo long as the paſſions and prejudices of others may find exerciſe for a patient ſuffering of injuries and affronts. Whoever makes preſent eaſe or popular fame his object, will go to an eaſy philoſophy for his maxims, and float with the ſtream! but a little obſervation of the prevailing temper of the times, and the leaſt degree of acquaintance with the paſt ſtate of things from hiſtory, may inſtruct us to chuſe another part.

Look back to the confuſions that diſtracted our country little more than a century ago: obſerve how the paſſions and intereſts of factious

ous men firſt inflamed the real grievances which called for Redreſs, and afterwards embarraſſed the better deſigns of the few who had no other end in proſpect. Remember the deſolations which then ſwept through our iſland, and we ſhall be convinced that excellent man * was no Enthuſiaſt, who, a celebrated hiſtorian informs us, could utter no other wiſh, either in ſtate councils or in his penſive moments, than "Peace! Peace!" with the aſpirations of a wounded heart.

What we want of reſemblance to thoſe times in real grievances (would to God we were more ſenſible of the difference!) may yet be abundantly made up, if the matchleſs aſſiduity that is now employed to foment diſſentions in every claſs of people, by the moſt indefatigable arts of application to their paſſions, creates no alarm in our breaſts, no Union of endeavours to antidote or expell the poiſon. And what arguments can be too ſerious to awaken this ſpirit, or to animate the exertion of it, againſt contradiction and example, in the practice of every one who has an heart

* Lord FALKLAND.

to

to with his country's peace, and to pursue it by healing counsels and measures? When the rage of a contrary spirit is general, the cure of it is, in some degree, in every one's power to administer. This attempt, my Brethren! will be our Policy as Wise men; and our Duty as Good men; and those who truly merit that character, should the reward of their patience be less speedy in it's accomplishment than your wishes and mine would prescribe, may look for a country, where Benevolence shall not, as now, be confined within the narrow limits of a Latitude or a River, but be the universal law of that boundless Empire whose foundations no Faction shall unsettle.

FINIS.